

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 08103 250746Z

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ACTION EB-07

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA SEVEN)

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TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJ: MTN: SECTORS GROUP - EC VIEWS

1. WE MET OCT 24 WITH EC DELEGATION (ABBOTT, DUGIMONT) TO DISCUSS NEXT SECTORS GROUP MEETING (NOV 3) AND TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR SECRETARIAT STUDIES ON THREE SECTORS (CHEMICALS, ELECTRONICS, HEAVY ELECTRICAL MACHINERY) OF INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES. ABBOTT INDICATED THAT THE EC COORDINATING GROUP IN BRUSSELS WILL DISCUSS SECTORS MEETING EARLY THE WEEK OF OCT 27 AND THEREFORE HIS COMMENTS ON EC LIKELY POSITION WERE PRELIMINARY.

2. ON QUESTION OF THREE ADDITIONAL SECTORS, ABBOTT WAS LESS NEGATIVE THAN EC POSITION TAKEN AT PREVIOUS MEETING OF SECTORS GROUP BUT STILL LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EC IS NOT LIKELY TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL GATT STUDIES OF ALL THREE SECTORS SUGGEST-
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 08103 250746Z

ED BY THE UNITED STATES. HE REPEATED EC CONCERN THAT SECTOR STU-

DIES, EVEN WITHOUT COMMITMENTS TO NEGOTIATE, LEAD US IN THE DIRECTION OF SECTORAL NEGOTIATIONS AND BUILD UP DOMESTIC EXPECTATIONS AND PRESSURES FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT BASIS. HAVING SAID THIS, ABBOTT INDICATED THAT THERE ARE A COUPLE OF PATHS, OTHER THAN A REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE STUDIES AT THIS TIME, THAT THE EC COULD TAKE. THE FIRST WOULD BE TO PROPOSE ONE OR MORE SECTORS OF INTEREST TO THE EC THAT COULD BE STUDIED AT THE SAME TIME AS ONE OR MORE SECTORS OF INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES. HE DECLINED TO SAY WHICH SECTORS. THOS WOULD MEAN, HE SAID, THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT HAVE TO GIVE UP ONE OR TWO OF OUR PROPOSED SECTORAL STUDIES AT THIS TIME.

3. THE SECOND APPROACH WOULD BE TO PROPOSE THAT THE SECRETARIAT COMMENCE STUDIES ON A WIDE RANGE OF SECTORS SO AS TO BE READY TO MEASURE THE RESULTS OF GENERAL APPROACHES SECTOR BY SECTOR. THIS MIGHT DIFFUSE SECTORAL PRESSURES AND ALLOW TIME (SINCE IT WOULD TAKE THE SECRETARIAT MANY MONTHS TO PREPARE) TO JUDGE BETTER THE LIKELY SECTORAL IMPACTS OF GENERAL APPROACHES.

4. LDCS -- ABBOTT'S INCLINATION WAS TO LET THE LDCS TAKE THE LEAD IN PROPOSING FURTHER ACTION, ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THE EC WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT CONTINUED SECRETARIAT WORK ON THE FOUR SECTORS ALREADY STUDIED BY THE SECRETARIAT. IF THE LDCS ASK FOR STUDIES ON ADDITIONAL SECTORS, THE EC IS LIKELY TO DEMAND THE SAME TYPE OF JUSTIFICATION THAT IT ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPLY.

5. EXPANSION OF METALS STUDY -- ABBOTT SAID THE EC COULD SUPPORT MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE METALS SECTOR, PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES OF THE ALUMINUM STUDY UNDERTAKEN DURING THE KR.

6. CANADIAN PROPOSAL -- ABBOTT INDICATED THAT THE EC WILL NOT SUPPORT A CANADIAN PROPOSAL CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE METALS SECTOR OR ANY PORTION THEREOF ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO START SECTORAL NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE GENERAL APPROACHES HAVE BEEN BETTER DEFINED.

7. COMMENT -- ABBOTT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EC HAS GIVEN LITTLE THOUGHT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECTORAL NEGOTIATIONS OTHER THAN TO WANT TO DELAY SERIOUS ACTIVITY ON SECTORS UNTIL LATER IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 08103 250746Z

THE NEGOTIATIONS. IF THE EC SHOULD CHOOSE THE SECOND APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE (I.E. TO SUPPORT A WIDE RANGE OF SECTORAL STUDIES), IT IS LIKELY TO LINK AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL STUDIES TO SOME PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT THAT TIES FUTURE PROGRESS IN THE SECTORS GROUP TO PROGRESS ON GNEERAL APPROACHES. IF THIS IS THE CASE, EC AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL GATT STUDIES COULD DEPEND UPON OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A PROCEDURAL LIMITATION DESIGNED TO KEEP SECTORAL NEGOTIATIONS FROM STARTING BEFORE GENERAL SOLUTIONS ARE

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